Child labour working under inhuman conditions

1434. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 5 per cent of the Indian children are a part of the labour force working under inhuman conditions for a fraction of the wages paid to adults;

(b) whether it is also a fact that legislation passed has not proved effective to check this malady; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this behalf?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) According to 1981 census of India (excluding Assam), the working children comprise 5.17 per cent of the total number of children in the age group of 0-14 years. Government is aware that a large number of children work in difficult circumstances in various employments due to socio-economic compulsions. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain specified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are non-prohibited from work. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Beedi and Cigar workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Shops and Commerical Establishments Act of the States/Union Territories etc., which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specific areas. Government have also formulated the national policy on child labour, 1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children. Under the NCI Policy project based plan of action has been launched in 9 areas of high concentration of child labour. Financial assistance is also provided to voluntary agencies for taking up action-oriented projects for the benefit of child labour.

Enforcement of child labour legislation is principally the responsibility of the State Governments/administrations of Union Territories. They have been addressed from time to time to ensure strict enforcement of the laws. With a view of further strengthen the enforcement Machinery, 50 per cent financial assistance is given to State Governments under a centrally sponsored plan scheme.

Labour participation in managements

1435. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to statae:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the public sector companies are not implementing the declared Government policy on labour participation in management;

(b) whether Government have taken any action against all the companies who are defying the above declared policy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the British India Corporation Limited, a Government Company, during the past one month has inducted several newcomers on the Boards of its subsidiary Companies like Elgin Mills and Cawnpore Textile who have neither any textile industry background nor do they belong to trade unions; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) A scheme on employees' participation in management was notified by the Central Government on 30th December, 1983. It is applicable to all Central Public Sector Undertakings except those which are specifically exempted. While a majority of the Central Public Sector undertakings have introduced workers' participation in management at the shop floor and the enterprise level, some of them have not been able to implement the scheme on account of certain difficulties. The scheme being non-statutory, the